

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 8, 2008. Claims 15 to 17, each of which are independent, are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 14 having been canceled. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0156756 (Stanley) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,159,111 (Ganapathy). Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, inasmuch as the rejected claims have been cancelled, the rejections are believed to be obviated. Nonetheless, newly-added Claims 15 to 17 are believed to be allowable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

The present invention shares an object in a three-dimensional virtual space with other information processing apparatuses. In the invention, a management server designates a unique identifier to each of the information processing apparatuses. When any one of the information processing apparatuses generates a new object, the sharing process is invoked. In particular, the information processing apparatus that generates the new object generates object identification information of the new object represented as an integer having a predetermined number of bits, by setting its own unique identifier designated by the management server into predetermined bits and information uniquely generated by the information processing apparatus into bits other than the predetermined bits. The information processing apparatus then transmits the generated object identification information to the remaining information processing apparatuses via the management server, and finally, generates a three-dimensional virtual space by sharing the

new object having the object identification information between the plurality of information processing apparatuses and generates the three-dimensional virtual space based on the shared object.

Such a generation scheme enables each of the information processing apparatuses to easily and independently generate identification information that is unique among all objects existing in the object sharing system consisting of the information processing apparatuses. Since no arbitration or communication to ensure the uniqueness of the identification information is required, a new object can be generated quickly by each of the respective information processing apparatuses.

Referring specifically to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 15 is directed to an information processing method for sharing, via a management server, an object in a three-dimensional virtual space between a plurality of information processing apparatuses, the method comprising, a designating step of designating, by the management server, a unique identifier to respective information processing apparatuses, and when any of the information processing apparatuses generates a new object, the respective information processing apparatus that generates the new object performs the following steps, an identification information generating step of generating object identification information of the generated new object represented as an integer having a predetermined number of bits, by setting its own unique identifier designated by the designating step of the management server into predetermined bits and information uniquely generated by the information processing apparatus into bits other than the predetermined bits, a transmitting step of transmitting, the generated object identification information to the remaining information processing apparatuses via the management server, and a generating step of

generating a three-dimensional virtual space by sharing the new object having the object identification information between the plurality of information processing apparatuses and generating the three-dimensional virtual space based on the shared object.

Claim 16 is directed to the information processing apparatus that generates the new object of method Claim 15, while Claim 17 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 16.

The art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of, when an information processing apparatus generates a new object, the information processing apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object represented as an integer having a predetermined number of bits, by setting its own unique identifier, which is designated by a management server and is received by the information processing apparatus, into predetermined bits and information uniquely generated by the information processing apparatus into bits other than the predetermined bits.

Stanley merely states that a unique object identifier (UID) pane assigns each new data object a globally unique identification upon creation and generates a minimum set of functional property panes within the object (paragraph [0084]). Stanley is not seen to disclose or suggest how the UID pane can assign the globally unique identification comprising 128-bit, alphanumeric string (paragraph [0112]). That is, Stanley is not seen to teach that, when an information processing apparatus generates a new object, the information processing apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object represented as an integer having a predetermined number of bits, by

setting its own unique identifier, which is designated by a management server and is received by the information processing apparatus, into predetermined bits and information uniquely generated by the information processing apparatus into bits other than the predetermined bits.

Ganapathy is seen to disclose defining a port address of a channel adapter as a combination of a global ID, such as IPv6 address, and a local ID. However, the global ID is not designated by a management server, but rather, is assigned by a vendor of the adapter. In addition, the local ID is assigned by a local subnet manager, which implements an address resolution process. This clearly indicates the local subnet manager needs communication to assign the local ID. Therefore, even if Ganapathy could have been combined with Stanley, such a combination would not have resulted in the features of, when an information processing apparatus generates a new object, the information processing apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object represented as an integer having a predetermined number of bits, by setting its own unique identifier, which is designated by a management server and is received by the information processing apparatus, into predetermined bits and information uniquely generated by the information processing apparatus into bits other than the predetermined bits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 15 to 17 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

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Edward A. Kmett  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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